

Remarks

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks. This response amends claims 17, 21, 44, 45, 49 and 54 and cancels claims 22, 53 and 55 without prejudice. With entry of this amendment, claims 17-21, 37-52 and 54 are in the application.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant submitted an Information Disclosure Statement for this application on January 10, 2007 with payment of the fee required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p). Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider and initial all references on the IDS before issuing another Office action or a Notice of Allowance.

Claim Amendments

This response amends claim 17 to recite the features of claim 55 and rewrites claim 54 in independent form.

This response amends claims 21 and 49 to recite “wherein routing the message comprises discarding the message.”

This response amends claim 44 to recite, “wherein the message is associated with an event time, and wherein processing the message based on the evaluations further comprises rerouting the message as a result of a determination that the application presence data indicates that the user is not available to receive the message before the event time.”

This response amends claim 45 to recite, “wherein the message is associated with an event time, and wherein processing the message based on the evaluation comprises discarding the message as a result of a determination that the application presence data indicates that the user is not available to receive the message before the event time.”

Support for these amendments can be found in the original specification at, e.g., page 12, line 22 – page 13, line 7.

This response amends claim 42 to correct a minor error.

Claim Objections

The Action at page 9 indicated that claims 54 and 55 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. As explained above, this response amends claim 17 to recite the features of now-cancelled claim 55 and rewrites claim 54 in independent form. Claims 17 and 54 are therefore allowable.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Action rejects claims 17-22, 41-42 and 50-53 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Pat. No. 6,301,609 to Aravamudan et al. (Aravamudan) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,839,737 to Friskel (Friskel) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,049,713 to Tran et al. (Tran). The Action rejects claims 37-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Aravamudan in view of Friskel and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,484,196 to Maurine (Maurine). The Action rejects claim 43 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Aravamudan in view of Friskel and further in view of U.S. Pat. Publ. No. 2004/0117443 to Barsness (Barsness). The Action rejects claims 44 and 46-49 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Aravamudan in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,430,604 to Ogle et al. (Ogle) and further in view of Tran. The Action rejects claim 45 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Aravamudan in view of Friskel and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,535,743 to Kennedy et al. (Kennedy). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections. The rejections of claims 22 and 53 are moot in light of the cancellations of these claims without prejudice.

As mentioned above, this response amends claim 17 to recite the features of now-cancelled claim 55, and claim 17 is therefore allowable. Claims 18-21 and 37-43 depend from claim 17 and are therefore allowable for reasons similar to claim 17, as well as for the unique combinations of method acts recited therein.

Claim 44 now recites, “wherein the message is associated with an event time, and wherein processing the message based on the evaluations further comprises rerouting the message as a result of a determination that the application presence data indicates that the user is not available to receive the message before the event time.” These method acts are similar to at least some method acts found in now-cancelled claim 55, which the Action indicated to be allowable. Claim 44 is therefore allowable for similar reasons, as well as for the unique combination of method acts recited therein.

Claim 45 now recites, “wherein the message is associated with an event time, and wherein processing the message based on the evaluation comprises discarding the message as a result of a

determination that the application presence data indicates that the user is not available to receive the message before the event time.” These method acts are similar to at least some method acts found in claim 54, which the Action indicated to be allowable. Claim 45 and its dependent claims 46-52 are therefore allowable for similar reasons, as well as for the unique combinations of method acts recited therein.

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all rejections.

Request for Interview

If any issues remain, the Examiner is formally requested to contact the undersigned attorney prior to issuance of the next Office Action in order to arrange a telephonic interview. It is believed that a brief discussion of the merits of the present application may expedite prosecution. Applicants submit the foregoing formal Amendment so that the Examiner may fully evaluate Applicants' position, thereby enabling the interview to be more focused.

This request is being submitted under MPEP § 713.01, which indicates that an interview may be arranged in advance by a written request.

Conclusion

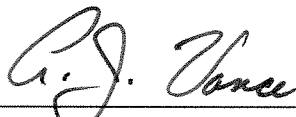
The claims in their present form should now be allowable. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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